



# *The Spire* First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

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## Lent and Holy Week at FBC



*March 2020*  
*Volume 66, No. 2*

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
200 Lynn Ave.  
Ames, IA 50014-7188  
Worship Sundays 9:45 am

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First Baptist Church is an open and caring family of faith where worship is central and faith engages both heart and mind. We are warmly ecumenical, delight in our diversity, and cherish our Baptist heritage of freedom. We are called by Christ to share God's love with the campus, community, and the world.

As we seek to follow the way of Jesus, we welcome all people to fully participate in our fellowship: all ages, colors, backgrounds, political affiliations, and physical and mental abilities; male and female, gay and straight, rich and poor, single and married. We are all God's children, and all are welcome here.

### Lenten Soup Suppers and Book Study

March 4, 11, 25 – 5:30 pm

You are invited to a series of three simple meals and conversations focusing on the book *The Simple Faith of Mr. Rogers*. Author Amy Hollingsworth had the opportunity to interview Fred Rogers and the two developed a friendship. Much of her understanding of Mr. Rogers' spiritual life came from their written correspondence. Our conversations will be a chance not just to talk about Mr. Rogers' faith, but to think about our own.

### Palm Sunday, April 5

worship with Palm Procession, 9:45 am

### Maundy Thursday, April 9

Our worship service at 6:30 pm will include scripture, music, and communion.

### Good Friday, April 10

Community Good Friday Service at Reiman Gardens, 12 noon. This one hour service will feature brief meditations on the Seven Last Words from the Cross. Pastor Dave will be among those participating in the service.

### Easter Sunday, April 12

Easter Breakfast, 8:30 am; Worship Celebration, 9:45 am



In the very early years of Christianity, there developed a time of preparation for Easter. This grew from 40 hours of fasting to what we now know as Holy Week. By the year 400 this had become a period of 40 days of preparation, a time for confession of sin and spiritual discipline called Lent.

Because each Sunday is kind of a mini-Easter, a celebration of resurrection, the 40 days do not include Sundays, and the first day of Lent is on a Wednesday - Ash Wednesday.

About a thousand years ago, the imposition of ashes became a regular part of the beginning of Lent. In scripture, ashes are a sign of mortality, humility, mourning, and repentance. With the Reformation, such observances were largely abandoned in most Protestant churches, but in recent years many churches have recovered or rediscovered this practice. Our church has had an Ash Wednesday service for a number of years now.

I'm not sure the point is to "enjoy" it, but I love our Ash Wednesday service, and I have heard more than one person say it is their favorite service of the year. How could a service focused on confession of sin and taking on ashes be a favorite service? Who could enjoy hearing "Dust you are, and to dust you shall return?"

As we gathered together, there were children, youth, college students, and octo- and nonagenarians, as well as lots of folks in between. The group was representative of our church - and of humanity in general. The music was moving; much of it was the meditative prayer-style music of the Taizé community. With our wonderful musicians and beautiful voices, I found it very meaningful. It was a participatory service in which we sang together, lit candles, and shared in readings. There is a certain vulnerability in confessing our failings and limitations and mortality that perhaps makes us more open to God in prayer; I found our time of prayer heartfelt and powerful. There was a strong sense of community and of the Spirit's presence with us.

While Lent begins with confession and taking on ashes, it is not a time to reflect on how terrible we are, or to wallow in our sinfulness, or to be obsessed with how fleeting life is. We are marked with ash, a sign of mortality, but we are marked in the sign of a cross - a reminder of God's love and power. We can't have real hope unless we see things as they really are, and I think that is part of what Lent is about. To be human is to be flawed and imperfect, but it also means that we are filled with promise and possibility and recipients of amazing grace.

I invite you to join us on Sunday as we continue our journey through the season of Lent.

Blessings,  
Dave



**March 1**

*Worship Leader:* Joe Parrish  
*Ushers:* Jon Pritchard, Kent Johnson  
Jan Thompson, Wallace Sanders  
*Sound System:* Bob Parrish

**March 8**

*Worship Leader:* Susan Russell  
*Ushers:* Larry Schrag, Beth Douglass  
Elijah Phomvisay  
*Sound System:* Tom Logue

**March 15**

*Worship Leader:* Phyllis Schrag  
*Ushers:* Dianne Borgen, Jerilyn Logue  
Tom Logue, Jon Pritchard  
*Sound System:* Kent Johnson

**March 22**

*Worship Leader:* Beth Douglass  
*Ushers:* Scott Anderson, Jere Maddux  
Stephanie Goodman, Jacelyn Rudderow  
*Sound System:* Tom Logue

**March 29**

*Worship Leader:* Jere Maddux  
*Ushers:* Barbara Woods, Trey Belle-Lawson  
Aaron Stegemöller, Julie Johnston  
*Sound System:* Kent Johnson

**March Flowers:** Jan Thompson

**March Birthdays**

Jack Cleasby	1	Joseph Core	9
Chase Toliver	1	Pat Johnson	17
Phyllis Schrag	5	Gretchen Anderson	18
Michelle Leininger	8	Wes Johnson	18
Caimbrie Parrish	8		

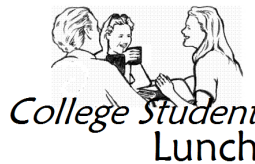


**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lunch**

**March 15** – El Azteca (2727 Stange Rd.)  
**April 19** – Culver’s



**Student Lunch March 29**



College students and young adults are invited to our monthly lunch gathering. Our next lunch is following worship on Sunday, March 29. This is a chance to have a good home-cooked meal and connect with other students and young adults at First Baptist. We meet in the College Lounge on the second floor. Joyce Davidson will be preparing our meal this month. A special thanks to Julie Johnston and Marilyn and Buck Peterson for providing recent student lunches.

Jesus teaches us to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Our church follows Jesus’ teaching by reaching out to the community and providing for our neighbors’ needs, physical and spiritual alike. Through the America for Christ Offering, we join with other American Baptists to serve neighbors in Puerto Rico in long-term recovery after disasters. We help provide scholarships so that seminary students receive an education without large student loan debt. We assist with immigration and refugee resettlement. We partner with agencies that provide support to children living in poverty. We support outreach centers, including the Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City. We provide resources to churches for evangelism, stewardship, planning, local mission outreach, and more.




**America for CHRIST OFFERING 2020**

“You shall  
**LOVE** your  
**NEIGHBOR**  
as **YOURSELF.**”  
MATTHEW 22:39



Our church will receive the America for Christ Offering this month. We invite you to give generously.

# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45am Worship 11am Church School	2	3 8am Men's Breakfast  4pm Parkinson's Dance Group	4 2pm Parkinson's Discussion Group 3pm Parkinson's Singing Group 5:30pm Soup Supper and Study 6:30 Choir 7:30 Instrumental	5	6	7 
8 9:45am Worship 11am Fellowship Time 11:15am Church School 11:15am Baptism Class 	9	10 10am ABC Clergy meeting  4pm Parkinson's Dance Group 7pm Trustees	11 11:30am Women's Lunch 3pm Parkinson's Singing Group 5:30pm Soup Supper and Study 6:30pm Choir	12	13	14
15 9:45am Worship 11am Church School 12pm Third Sunday Lunch	16	17 8am Men's Breakfast 	18 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19 	20	21
<i>Spring Break Week (office closed)</i>						
22 9:45am Worship 11am Church School	23	24 4pm Parkinson's Dance Group	25 11:30am Women's Lunch 3pm Parkinson's Singing Group 5:15pm CCJ Board 5:30pm Soup Supper and Study 6:30pm Choir	26 6:30pm Deacons	27 <b>Office Closed</b>	28
29 9:45am Worship 11am Church School 11am Student Lunch	30	31 4pm Parkinson's Dance Group 	<b>Church Office Hours</b> Monday—Closed Tuesday—9am-1pm Wednesday—9am-1pm Thursday—9am- 1pm Friday—9am-3pm			



## Cook-Off Held February 16

Thank you to everyone who entered a dish and all who came out to enjoy all the wonderful food at our 2020 Cook-Off! We voted for our favorite dishes with cash and raised \$436.85 for ongoing ABC rebuilding efforts in Puerto Rico. Dave Russell won first place with Heart-Shaped Stromboli Sliders. Steve Babcock took second with his homemade ice cream and Annalee O'Conner came in third with a delicious Spinach Artichoke Dip (accepting for Annalee in the photo is her mother Joyce Davidson). Marilyn and Buck Peterson won for best Valentine-themed dish with Rhubarb Butter Crunch with a heart-shaped design and Lucy Stegemöller won the Creativity Award for her Sugar Cookies and display.



### Name Tags

For those who are newer to FBC (and as reminder for those who have been here for awhile), we have name tags available in the narthex and encourage everybody to use them. They make it easier to match faces and names and are especially helpful for those newer to our church. If you need a new name tag, please note that on the weekly registration pad or contact the office.



**UPDATE**



The office is working on publishing a new directory, as it was last updated October 2018. A draft copy is available in the narthex. Please check that your

info is correct and note updates, corrections, and additions.

### FBC in the News

Congratulations to **Emma Phomvisay**! Her Musical Theater team at Roosevelt High School made All-State in speech competition. They performed a piece from the musical *Falsettos*.



**Elizabeth Stegemöller** has been named the 2020 Rossmann Manatt Scholar at Iowa State. The award recognizes exceptional creativity and productivity in scholarship, teaching, and service, with great promise for continuing achievements. The award announcement pointed out that Elizabeth is the only music therapist in the nation with a Ph.D. in neuroscience! Congratulations to Elizabeth!



**First Baptist Church**

**AMES**

**200 Lynn Avenue**

**Ames, Iowa 50014-7188**

### **Our Church Staff:**

Rev. Dr. David Russell	Pastor
Mindy Phomvisay	Director of Music
Patricia Izbicki	Accompanist
Hope Deets	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian
Hanna Saville	Child Care

### **Summer Work Trip**

We are making plans for a summer work trip to Green Lake Conference Center June 7-13. Green Lake is our American Baptist Assembly in Wisconsin, located about 70 miles northeast of Madison. A good part of our work will likely involve painting. We will also be able to enjoy the beautiful grounds and lake.

Green Lake provides housing, and we will cook our own meals. The cost will be \$50/person. Those grade 7 and up may take part in the trip. At an informational meeting, there were 12-13 people interested in participating. Registration materials will be available soon; in the meantime please see Pastor Dave if you would like to be a part of our mission team.

### **Music Camp 2020**

We have set the dates for this year's Music Camp! Mark your calendars and plan to join us July 13-17 for a fantastic week filled with friends, fun, and all kinds of music! Music Camp is for students grades K-6 (completed) and runs from 9-11:30 am each morning. More details to come!

